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Message Text

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44
ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NEA-14 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04

INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01

SCI-06 SS-20 SP-03 FEAE-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AECE-00

AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01

TRSE-00 /205 W
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O R 051533Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3651
INFO SECDEF
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO
USUN NEW YORK 1051
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3433

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, GR
SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA: THE STRAITS QUESTION

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JUNE 4, PROFESSOR GEORGE ZOTIADIS, CHAIRMAN GOVERNMENT INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON LAW OF THE SEA, PRESENTED HIS CURRENT VIEWS ON THE STRAITS QUESTION.
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2. AS HE HAS REPEATED PREVIOUSLY, ZOTIADIS OBSERVED
THAT GOG AND USG HOLD SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERING VIEWS ON
STRAITS QUESTION. HE REMARKED THAT GOG WOULD HAVE MUCH
PREFERRED TO HANDLE THIS MATTER WITH USG ON BILATERAL
BASIS -- IN WHICH CASE GOG WOULD HAVE BEEN FULLY PREPARED
TO GIVE FREE PASSAGE TO US SHIPS. ZOTIADIS EMPHASIZED
GOG DESIRE TO "GIVE OUR FRIEND AND ALLY WHATEVER IT
SHOULD REQUIRE IN THIS REGARD". FACT THAT USG FEELS IT
MUST TAKE "GLOBAL VIEW" OF STRAITS PROBLEM HAS CAUSED
GOG SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTY IN RESOLVING ISSUE TO ITS
OWN SATISFACTION AND THAT OF ITS PRINCIPAL ALLY.
HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAS SEVERAL TIMES DISCUSSED A
"SERIES OF ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES" REGARDING RESOLUTION
OF STRAITS ISSUE WITH AMERICAN ADMIRAL DOYLE (PRESUMABLY
ADMIRAL JAMES HENRY DOYLE, WHO HAS SERVED IN OP 60
NAVY DEPARTMENT) AND THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN
VERY USEFUL. ON THIS POINT, HE NOTED THAT ADMIRAL DOYLE
HAD BEEN WILLING TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL
STRAITS (SOME 16-17 ACCORDING TO ZOTIADIS) THROUGH WHICH
DOYLE FELT IT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT FREE PASSAGE
BE GRANTED FOR US NAVY PURPOSES.

3. COMMENTING MORE GENERALLY ON AMERICAN NEGOTIATING
POSITION ON STRAITS ISSUE, ZOTIADIS ALLEGED THAT USG
POSITION IS "NEITHER FLEXIBLE ENOUGH NOR SPECIFIC ENOUGH".
WHAT GOG REALLY REQUIRES IS FOR USG TO PRESENT LESS OF A
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR ITS VIEW ON STRAITS QUESTION AND
MORE DETAILED SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. ZOTIADIS REMARKED THAT
IN THIS CONNECTION THE SOVIET PROPOSALS HAD BEEN BETTER
PRESENTED, I.E. THEY LAID OUT SPECIFIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES,
TALKED IN TERMS OF CONCRETE CONCERNS AND SHOWED WILLINGNESS
TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC NEEDS ON "ITEM BY ITEM BASIS."

4. ZOTIADIS STRESSED GOG OVERRIDING CONCERN IN STRAITS
QUESTION IS NOT RPT NOT TO CHANGE THE "RIGHTS" WHICH
EXIST NOW IN THE AEGEAN, I.E. GOG DESIRES CONTINUE
GRANTING RIGHTS TO US BUT DOES NOT RPT NOT WISH TO GRANT
ANY ADDITIONAL RIGHTS OR PRIVILEGES TO USSR. ZOTIADIS
SPECULATED THAT ONE SOLUTION FOR GOG MIGHT BE TO HAVE
MODIFIED INNOCENT PASSAGE CONCEPT ACCEPTED, I.E. SHOULD
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TWELVE-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA ZONE BE ESTABLISHED A GRANT OF
FREE PASSAGE COULD BE GIVEN IN THE SIX TO TWELVE MILE
SECTOR WHIHC MAINTAINING THE INNOCENT PASSAGE CONCENT
OVERALL. TO EMBOFF QUESTION, ZOTIADIS DENIED THAT GOG
HAS ANY INTENT UNILATERALLY TO DECLARE TWELVE MILE
TERRITORIAL WATERS BEFORE LOS CONFERENCE CARACAS.

5. ZOTIADIS NOTED THAT USG HAS SHOWN SOME SIGNS OF

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WILLINGNESS TO DROP PRIOR INSISTENCE ON TERMINOLOGY
"FREE PASSAGE", I.E. HE ASSERTED THAT RECENT USG
REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SPOKEN IN TERMS OF "UNIMPEDED TRANSIT".
IN ANY EVENT, ZOTIADIS CONCLUDED GOG CONSIDERS IT LIKELY
NOW THAT STRAITS ISSUE WILL BE SOLVED AS PART OF A
"PACKAGE DEAL" AT CARACAS. AS A FINAL COMMENT ON STRAITS
ISSUE -- AND BY IMPLICATION ON OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH
MIGHT EVOLVE IN AEGEAN FROM EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL
WATERS TO TWELVE MILE LIMIT, ZOTIADIS DECLARED "IT IS NOT
GOG'S INTENTION TO HINDER NAVIGATION RIGHTS OF ANY STATE".
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